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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
BRINEY III, WALTER F	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2615	

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/773,731	BAUMAN, NATAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dionne H. Pendleton	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, **the microphone sampling position** must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: the microphone and amplifier are not clearly labeled. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: There is no antecedent basis for "*microphone sampling position*" as recited in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. **Claims 8-12** recite the limitation "the maximum lateral dimension of a user's ear canal" in lines 2-3, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-12, 26-29, 35-38 and 42-57** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Feeley et al. (US 2004/0010181)** in view of **Shennib et al. (US Patent 6,914,994).**

Regarding claim 1, Feeley teaches a hearing aid comprising: a BTE housing with microphone **62,** reading on "a microphone sampling position located externally of an ear canal of a user";

A receiver comprising a speaker **13** described in **paragraph [0036]** as being suspended within the ear canal via a mold **11** having any variety of shapes and/or sizes, such that in **paragraph [0047]** said C-I-C unit **10** has an open mold configuration wherein the ear canal is at least partially open, which reads on "open ear configuration and suspended within the ear of the ear canal", and wherein sound from the sampling position is amplified and passed via electrical connection **22** around a portion of the

external ear and through the ear canal opening to the speaker, as discussed in **paragraph [0075]**;

and wherein **figure 6A** illustrates a microphone contained within the BTU unit, and further wherein **paragraph [0032]** describes the BTE unit as including an amplifier, thus reading on "wherein said microphone sampling position and an amplifier are positioned within a behind the ear unit"

Feeley fails to teach that the receiver generates about 3 db or below of insertion loss over a portion of the human ear audible frequencies.

Shennib recognizes a need in the hearing aid art for compensating for insertion loss caused by the presence of hearing aid devices within the ear canal. Shennib teaches a transfer function for a hearing aid wherein the user is given the perception of unaided hearing and in **column 4, lines 30-36**, teaches that the transfer function results in an insertion loss within i.e., less than or equal to 6 db of the unaided response, particularly In the range of 125 to 4000 Hertz, which reads on "about 3 db or below of insertion loss over a portion of the human ear audible frequencies."

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Feeley and Shennib, employing the insertion loss compensation transfer function of Shennib for the Feeley hearing device, thereby reproducing the unaided response for the wearer of the hearing device.

Regarding claim 2, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses the range of <=2db, Shennib reads on "a receiver

generates about two decibels or below of insertion loss over a portion of the human audible frequencies."

Regarding claim 3, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=1db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about one decibels or below of insertion loss over a portion of the human audible frequencies."

Regarding claim 4, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 2200 Hertz and ***about*** 5300 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 5, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** *3000* Hertz and ***about*** 5000 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 6, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver

generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 3500 Hertz and ***about*** 4500 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 7, in **paragraph [0037],** Feeley teaches that the receiver **12** is positioned within the bony and/or cartilaginous region of the ear canal.

Regarding claims 8-12, Feeley inherently teaches that the receiver **12** has a maximum lateral dimension. Feely does not explicitly teach that said maximum lateral dimension is less than any one of: half, thirty-percent, twenty-percent, ten-percent or five-percent of the maximum lateral dimension of the user's ear canal.

However, Feely does not restrict to any particular lateral dimension for the receiver unit **11,12,** and in **paragraph [0036]** teaches that the ear mold **11** into which the receiver portion **12** is located, may be of various sizes and shapes such that it provides "a universal fit that is satisfactory for a number of users". In **paragraph [0037]** Feeley teaches that an ear mold having a small size, which enables deep insertion of the ear mold into the ear canal, is facilitated by limiting the number of elements to be mounted within said ear mold device 11. It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further limit the number of elements to be contained within the Feeley earmold, such that the lateral dimension of said earmold device is as little as five-percent of the maximum lateral dimension of the user's ear canal, which would **1.)** enable deep insertion of the earmold within the wearer's ear canal, **2.)** provide an open-mold configuration for the wearer, and also **3.)** provide a universal fit, wearable by a number of users.

Regarding claim 26, **in figure 1,** Feeley teaches that the speaker **13** is at least partially enclosed within a casing **11**, having a first and second end portion, the first end portion communicating with an intermediate connecting portion **14** *(also, see figure 2)*, the speaker **13** communicating with a port, inherently provided in the second end portion of the casing for transmitting an acoustic signal to the ear canal of the wearer.

Regarding claims 27 and 29, in **paragraph [0047],** Feeley teaches a filter for sealing openings thereby keeping cerumen, dirt, moisture, and other undesirable elements from entering the unit.

Regarding claim 28, in **paragraph [0041]**, Feeley teaches that the casing **11** is sealed to debris at the first end portion and along the length of the casing.

Regarding claim 35, in **figure 5**, Feeley teaches that the electrical connection **22** comprises an intermediate connection portion **14,** and **figure 5** further shows four electrically-connecting prongs, reading on " at least two electrical conducting components", each prong indicative of an isolated electrical channel, as claimed.

Regarding claim 36, Feeley teaches a hearing aid comprising: a BTE housing with microphone **62,** reading on "a microphone sampling position" located externally of an ear canal of a user";

A receiver comprising a speaker **13** described in **paragraph [0036]** as being suspended within the ear canal via a mold **11** having any variety of shapes and/or sizes, such that in **paragraph [0047]** said C-I-C unit **10** has an open mold configuration such that the ear canal is at least partially open, which reads on "open ear configuration

and suspended within the ear of the ear canal", wherein sound from the sampling position is amplified and passed via electrical connection **22** around a portion of the external ear and through the ear canal opening to the speaker, as discussed in **paragraph [0075]**;

and wherein **figure 6A** illustrates a microphone contained within the BTU unit, and further wherein **paragraph [0032]** describes the BTE module as including an amplifier, thus reading on "wherein said microphone sampling position and an amplifier are positioned within a behind the ear unit."

Feeley inherently teaches that the receiver **12** has a maximum lateral dimension. Feely does not explicitly teach that said maximum lateral dimension is less than half of the maximum lateral dimension of the user's ear canal.

However, Feely does not restrict to any particular lateral dimension for receiver **11,12,** and in **paragraph [0036]** teaches that the ear mold **11** into which the receiver portion **12** is located, may be of various sizes and shapes such that it provides "a universal fit that is satisfactory for a number of users". In **paragraph [0037]** Feeley teaches that an ear mold having a small size, enables deep insertion of the ear mold into the ear canal; said small size being facilitated by limiting the number of elements to be mounted within said ear mold device **11**. Therefore, would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further limit the number of elements to be contained within the Feeley earmold, such that the lateral dimension of said earmold device is less than half of the maximum lateral dimension of the user's ear canal, thereby enabling deep insertion of the earmold within the wearer's ear canal,

providing an open-mold configuration for the wearer, and also providing a universal fit, wearable by a number of users.

Regarding claims 37 and 38, Feeley does not explicitly teach that said maximum lateral dimension is less than any one of: forty-percent or thirty-percent of the maximum lateral dimension of the user's ear canal.

However, Feely does not restrict to any particular lateral dimension for the receiver unit **11,12,** and therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further limit the number of elements to be contained within the Feeley earmold, such that the lateral dimension of said earmold device is less than forty-percent or thirty-percent of the maximum lateral dimension of the user's ear canal, thereby enabling deep insertion of the earmold within the wearer's ear canal, providing an open-mold configuration for the wearer, and also providing a universal fit, wearable by a number of users.

Regarding claim 42, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** *1000* Hertz and ***about*** 2500 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 43, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver

generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 1500 Hertz and ***about*** 2500 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 44, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 1500 Hertz and ***about*** 2000 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 45, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 1500 Hertz and ***about*** 1800 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 46, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 2000 Hertz and ***about*** 3500 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 47, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 2500 Hertz and ***about*** 3000 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 48, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 3000 Hertz and ***about*** 4000 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 49, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 3000 Hertz and ***about*** 3500 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 50, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency

range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 3500 Hertz and ***about*** 4000 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 51, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 3500 Hertz and ***about*** 5000 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 52, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 4000 Hertz and ***about*** 4500 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 53, in **column 4, lines 30-35**, Shennib teaches an insertion loss less than or equal to 6 db within a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz. Since a range of <=6db encompasses a range of <=3db, Shennib reads on "a receiver generates about three decibels or below of insertion loss". Additionally, a frequency range of 125 to 4,000 Hz, as taught by Shennib, reads on the range of "between ***about*** 4500 Hertz and ***about*** 5000 Hertz", as broadly claimed.

Regarding claims 54 and 56, in **paragraph [0047]** teaches that the receiver unit **11** is placed so deeply within the ear canal so as to touch the bony region of the ear canal, which also implies that at least a portion of the receiver unit **11** is positioned within the cartilaginous portion of the ear canal.

Regarding claims 55 and 57, in **paragraph [0047],** Feeley teaches that the receiver unit **11** has an open mold configuration such that the ear canal is at least partially open, which reads on "open ear configuration and suspended within the ear of the ear canal", as broadly claimed.

6. **Claims 19, 21-24, 40, 58 and 59** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Feeley et al. (US 2004/0010181)** in view of **Shennib et al. (US Patent 6,914,994)** as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of **Bayer (US 2002/0172386).**

Regarding claim 19, Feeley teaches an electrical connection **22** comprising an intermediate connection portion *(see, that portion of tubing extending between fastener **14** and fastener **31**)*. The combination of Feeley and Shennib fail to teach a retaining member extending from at least one of the intermediate connection and the receiver portion, for engaging at least a portion of the concha.

In **Figures 2,17 and 18**, Bayer teaches a retaining member **460** extending from the intermediate connection portion **428** of a BTE device, wherein the retaining member **460** engages at least a portion of the concha of the user's ear.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to alter the combined teachings of Feeley and Shennib, particularly Feeley, providing a retaining member on the tube portion **21**, for the purpose of stabilizing the intermediate tubing **21** in the vicinity of the entrance to the auditory canal.

Regarding claim 21, In **figures 17 and18**, Bayer teaches that the retaining member **460** is provided with an aperture **461** for allowing passage of the tubing **428** therethrough. Since Bayer does not teach that said aperture **461** is provided with a means for restricting the insertion depth of the tubing **428**, said retaining member aperture **461** is interpreted as reading on "retaining member is configured such that the receiver has a maximum insertion depth into an ear canal."

Regarding claim 22, in **Figure 18**, Bayer teaches that said retaining member may be constructed so that the retaining member holds that portion of the tubing which is inserted into the ear canal at an angle, thus preventing the inserted portion from contacting any portion of the ear canal. The combined teachings of Feeley and Bayer teach that the receiver unit, located at the terminal end portion of tube **21,** would be held at an angle within the ear canal, and thereby prevented from contacting any portion of the ear canal , as claimed.

Regarding claim 23, Bayer teaches that the retaining member stabilizes the receiver in the ear canal.

Regarding claim 24, Since Bayer teaches that the retaining member stabilizes the receiver in the ear canal, Bayer is also interpreted as teachings that the retaining member prevents movement of the receiver in the ear canal.

Regarding claim 40, Feeley teaches an electrical connection **22** comprising an intermediate connection portion *(see, that portion of tubing extending between fastener **14** and fastener **31**).* The combination of Feeley and Shennib fail to teach a stiffening member provided on or in at least a portion of the intermediate connection portion.

In **figures 17 and 18**, Bayer teaches a stiffening member **460** extending from the intermediate connection portion **428** of a BTE device.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to alter combined teachings of Feeley and Shennib, particularly Feeley, per the teachings of Bayer, providing a stiffening member on the tube **21** of Feeley, for the purpose of stabilizing the intermediate tubing **21** in the vicinity of the entrance to the auditory canal.

Regarding claims 58 and 59, in **figure 1,** Bayer teaches a thin arcuate stabilizing member **460**, interpreted as reading on "a wire", as broadly claimed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dionne H. Pendleton whose telephone number is 571-272-7497. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dionne Pendleton

SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER